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3rd Brigade soldier at Camp Shelby joins ranks of Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

By Karen Bradshaw

Sgt. 1st Class Jabbaar A. Madyun of 3rd Brigade/87th Division (Training Support), a First U.S. Army unit, was inducted into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club in a dramatic ceremony at Fort McPherson. Madyun was among five soldiers to join the famed club, named for Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. Audie Murphy, the Army's most decorated soldier.

Madyun, a field artillery soldier, is NCOIC, Svc Btry, 2/305th Field Artillery, 3/87th Division (Training Support) at Camp Shelby, Miss. He provides training support as an observer controller/trainer to Reserve Component units. His job is to teach, coach and mentor field artillery Reserve Component units to meet Army training standards. An 18-year veteran and field artilleryman, Madyun's overseas assignments have included tours in Germany, Korea and Kuwait during Desert Storm. Stationed at Fort Hood three different times, Madyun's career has also included a three-year stint as a recruiter in San Francisco.



FORSCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Carl E. Christian poses with new Audie Murphy Club member, Sgt. First Class Jabbaar A. Madyun. (photo by Phil Manson)



Soldiers in period Army uniforms were dramatic highlights of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club induction. (photo by Phil Manson)

went on, "Members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club exemplify leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of soldiers and their families. ...Our nation, now more than ever, needs leaders like you to step forward to carry on the legacy of Audie Murphy, the legacy of those who sacrificed so much for what we cherish--- freedom."

FORSCOM Command Sergeant Major Carl E. Christian, speaker for the event, reminded all present that the Army's most decorated soldier "Audie Murphy demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism and regard for the welfare of his soldiers, and...being a member of the Audie Murphy club is a privilege earned by a few exceptional NCOs...those who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and a combat-ready Army." He

Commander's Corner

Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members of First United States Army-

First Army is heavily involved in mobilizing our National Guard and Reserve soldiers to meet the Nation's call. Our OPTEMPO has increased tremendously since the first of the year and you should not expect that to change in the foreseeable future.

Mobilization is a complicated team effort involving the headquarters, training support divisions and brigades working in concert with the mobilizing units and their respective commands. Added to the mix, are the relationships our training support brigades maintain with the mobilization stations. The brigades and their mobilization assistance teams are on the cutting edge of ensuring timelines are met and mobilized Guard and Reserve soldiers are trained and ready to deploy.

I know and appreciate the hard work being done throughout First Army, not to mention your response to each new contingency we face. Nothing seems too difficult for you. But, then, that is the mark of a true professional...smooth and seamless operations, no excuses, mission first. This is what readiness means, from the top down.

Your attitudes and professional ethic give confidence to those soldiers who are deploying. They look to us for the answer. We will *not* send them into harm's way unprepared; the cost is too high.

Without missing a beat, we are continuing to train the Guard and Reserve. This is a tribute to the great teamwork at the training support divisions and training support brigades. I salute them and their accomplishments. Our training support brigades are the tip of First Army's spear.

We recently trained another one-hundred fifty personnel for Military Support to Civil Authorities missions, and whether disasters are natural or manmade, we will be ready to respond. In a few weeks we will be practicing some of those skills in a major homeland defense exercise that will test our systems.

Take a moment in these busy days to stop and hold your families close. And pray for the brave soldiers who are deploying. I have utmost confidence in your abilities to do the Army's work in superb fashion. Thank you for all you do for our Army and Nation.

Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge

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Some airlines waive ticket exchange fees for troops

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

Some U.S. airlines are adjusting their rules so service members won't have to pay penalties if they need to alter ticket reservations because of military duty.

AirTran Airways, Delta Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines now waive ticket change fees for service members on military deployment orders, while ticketing changes on Southwest Airlines are currently free, according to Jean Marie Ward of the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Continental, Frontier and Northwest Airlines waive change fees and also will issue refunds on request, she added.

Ward said particulars of these carriers' programs can be viewed at DoD's Military Assistance Program Web site at dod.mil/mapsite/airtickets.html. Information from more airlines will be added as it becomes available, she said.

According to General Service Administration officials, a number of other airlines will waive ticket change penalties if service members present copies of their military orders or a letter from their commanders, Ward noted. The waiver procedures are official company policy for some carriers, she said, but not all reservation or check-in personnel may know that. She suggested travelers call their airline for waiver information before going to the airport.

Readiness_



Command Sergeant Major's Message



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Jeffrey J. Mellinger**

Trust and Confidence. Each of us in leadership positions has at least one set of orders for promotion. And in those orders is a remark about the "special trust and confidence" placed in us.

Think about those words for a moment. Not just ordinary trust and confidence, but special or extraordinary. Why special? I believe it is because we are entrusted as leaders with the responsibility for our Nation's most valuable re-

source - its sons and daughters. Many of us know better than others how important that task is, as our own sons and daughters have answered the call.

These two powerful words, trust and confidence, are not to be taken lightly. The higher our position of responsibility are, the more significant the meanings. More rank and higher positions means we are responsible for more charges, and more severe the consequences of our failure as leaders.

So why have I chosen trust and confidence as my topic this month? Because as I visit soldiers as they form for deployments around the world, I see instances and examples of a break in the faith placed in us as leaders. I see soldiers reporting for duty without basic uniforms, field gear, helmets, and requisite skills in soldiering. They come without batteries, without IV sets (even if trained as Combat Life Savers). They come without family care plans, without shot records, without total confidence that they have what they need to perform their assigned missions.

And once they assemble at our mobilization stations, are we as aggressive about caring for our warriors, as we are able? The best form of welfare for our soldiers is quality training. Why then do leaders ask for days off from training? Do they really believe that their soldiers are as well trained as possible? Surely not! And do we make every soldier perform every task to standard, or is close passed as good enough? What about training aids and equipment sets? Do soldiers have what they need, or are we back to showing pictures of what they will use?

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As we continue to send our sons and daughters to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, SFOR, KFOR, and a dozen other missions, we must continually evaluate our worthiness of special trust and confidence. If we ever lose the faith of our sons and daughters and our nation, we will be hard-pressed to recover trust and confidence in us and in the Army.

Are we as aggressive seeking training opportunities as we must be? Do we personally check to see that soldiers have all the equipment they need? Do we issue the wrong sized boots and tell the soldier to exchange them when they get to the next place? Do we allow soldiers through mobilization without fixing their teeth and without properly qualifying with their weapons? Do we begin physical fitness programs (physical fitness is readiness, too), lay on qualification and field fire ranges, conduct crew drill and maintenance, and conduct other basic skill, crew, section and squad training at home, or do we put it off for the mob station? And were it your son or daughter, would you still do it the same?

As we go about our business over the coming days and weeks, and prepare for the future, we must ask every day if we are doing all we can to continue to be worthy of the special trust and confidence placed in us. There is much at stake.

First In Deed!



Secretary Elaine L. Chao announces information military Reservists and their families need to know about employee benefits

Rights to Pension and Health Coverage Continue During Military Service

Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao unveiled updated information to help Reserve and National Guard units preparing to be deployed understand their rights to pension and health benefits coverage available through private sector employers.

“Military reservists should have confidence that while they are serving their country in active duty, their job pension and health benefits will continue for their families,” said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. “That is why we have developed information to familiarize reservists and family members with the federal law that protects these benefits.

“Many troops will be called to serve. This represents a great sacrifice by reservists, guardsmen and employers who must carry on without the services of these valuable employees during our fight against terrorism and to preserve the freedom cherished by Americans.”

Frequently Asked Questions for Reservists Being Called to Active Duty provides basic information about how retirement benefits of reservists are protected during service to our country. It also describes the rights of family members to maintain health coverage, including the right to keep coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act – known as COBRA continuation coverage -- as well as the various health benefit options available to family members.

A copy of the questions and answers can be obtained on the department’s Web site at www.dol.gov/pwba. The public also may call with questions through a toll-free number at 1-866-275-7922 or electronically at www.askpwba.dol.gov.

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Web site helps identify scam artists **Army News Service**

Servicemembers, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians and their family members now have a tool to stop cons who prey on military personnel.

In a joint effort, DoD and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) created Military Sentinel, a Web site to be used to identify those who seek to steal identities and set up telemarketing scams, fake sweepstakes and get-rich-quick schemes.

Military Sentinel allows members of the U.S. Armed Forces to enter consumer complaints directly into a database that is immediately accessible by more than 500 law enforcement organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia.

These law enforcement agencies use this complaint data to target cases for prosecution and other enforcement measures, said Timothy Muris, the Federal Trade Commission chairman.

Installation commanders can use the site to make informed decisions when granting businesses access to their installation, Muris said. It will provide DoD with the means to gauge consumer-protection issues facing the military community, and Military Sentinel will promote financial literacy and education through the links to information on consumer-protection issues available on the site, said Assistant Secretary of Defense Charles Abell.

By going to the site at <http://www.consumer.gov/military> and clicking on consumer education at the bottom of the page, consumers can learn 66 ways to save money, the latest telemarketing and mailbox scams and even ways to help aging loved ones from becoming victims.



Army Reserve Team: Beware of identity theft

By Stephen G. Melly
Fort Dix Director of Public Safety



Identity theft has become a major concern and problem across the country. It is also a force protection issue. Consequently, Army Reserve soldiers, civilians, and family members must remain watchful against this form of crime.

It occurs when someone uses your name, Social Security number, credit card number, or some other identifying information for his or her own use. It can also occur when someone takes your personal information without your knowledge with the intent to commit fraud or theft. Guarding against identity theft takes some work and forethought here are some informative and constructive guidelines to follow:

Before revealing personal identifying information, find out how it will be used and if it will be shared with others. Ask if you have a choice about the use of your information: can you choose to have it kept confidential?

Pay attention to your billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if bills do not arrive on time. Give your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary. Ask to use other types of identifiers when possible.

Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry to what you actually need. If your I.D. or credit cards are lost or stolen, notify the creditors by phone immediately, and call the credit bureaus to ask that a "fraud alert" be placed in your file.

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Order a copy of your credit report from the three credit reporting agencies every year. Make sure it is accurate and includes only those activities you have authorized. Keep items with personal information in a safe place; shred or tear them up when you do not need them anymore. Make sure charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, bank checks and statements, expired charge cards, and credit offers you get in the mail are disposed of appropriately.

Do not post any personal information on public Web sites. Be careful with personal information you throw into the trash - use a shredder.

If someone has stolen your identity there are some important things you should do immediately. Contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus. Tell them to flag your file with a Fraud Alert/Victim Impact, a statement that creditors should call you for permission before they open any new accounts in your name. The credit bureaus will also send copies of your credit report(s), so you can review the credit reports and ensure no additional fraudulent accounts were opened in your name, or unauthorized changes made to existing accounts.

Contact the creditors for any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Ask to speak with someone in the security or fraud department, and follow up in writing. Following up with a letter is one of the procedures spelled out in the Fair Credit Billing Act for resolving errors on credit billing statements, including charges or electronic fund transfers that you have not made.

File a report with local police. If the incident occurred on a military installation, file a report with the DOD police. Afterwards, get a copy of the report in case the bank, credit card company, or others involved need proof of the crime.

Additionally there are other actions you can take if you are the victim of identity theft include:

Contact all creditors, by phone and in writing, to inform them of the problem. Call your nearest Postal Inspection Service office and your local police. Contact the FTC ID Theft Division, 1-877-438-4338 or

See Identity Theft, p. 8

Army's Lewis and Clark exhibit to travel America

by Nicole Dowell

The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial officially began Jan. 18, but the Pentagon had an early commemorative Jan. 7-10 to recognize the expedition that opened the doors of the American West.



A display sponsored by the assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works and manned by the Corps of Engineers was available for viewing in the Pentagon. The display was part of the bi-centennial's national kickoff at Monticello, Va., Jan. 18 and will cross the nation much as the original expedition did 200 years ago.

The Corps of Engineer's display includes a backdrop, period instruments provided by the Frontier Army Living History Association, and staff members dressed in period uniforms.

"The exhibit is a living and breathing thing that includes school talks, encampments and discovery boxes for educators," said Jean Nauss, national coordinator, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, Corps of Engineers.

In the Lewis and Clark Expedition, two Army officers, 26 enlisted men and five nonmilitary members made up the permanent party, known as the Corps of Discovery, that covered 7,689 miles of waterways by canoes and boats in two years, four months and 10 days.

"The Lewis and Clark Expedition is extremely significant," said Ken Wilk, assistant national coordinator, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, Corps of Engineers.

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A member of the Army Corps of Engineers exhibit answers a soldier's question about the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the Pentagon, Jan. 10.



William Clark was born in Caroline County, Virginia. In 1784. As well as being a notable American explorer, he served as an army officer (1792-1796).



Meriwether Lewis was born in Albemarle County, outside Charlottesville, Virginia. He grew up in Virginia and Georgia as part of the Southern planter aristocracy.

Troops Get Some Income Tax Relief for Combat Zone Service

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

Military members serving in designated combat zones in support of the war against global terrorism get a tax break from Uncle Sam.

Depending upon rank, eligible service members can exclude from federal income tax either all or some of their active duty pay -- and certain other pays -- earned in any month during service in a designated combat zone. Read article: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2003/n01242003_200301241.html

An Army Reserve soldier in Cuba: harsh reality

By SFC Susanne Aspley

88th Regional Support Command



An Army Reserve Soldier serves as a translator and linguist at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. (Photo by SFC Susanne

There are many Americans who can recall where they were and when they first heard the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Last year, a new generation was given their own tragedy to always remember.

One 88th Regional Support Command soldier was driving home

on that extraordinary Tuesday morning, listening to music on the radio. When he arrived at the house, his wife was nearly hysterical, screaming about somebody bombing the Trade Center.

The phone rang soon after. It was his Unit Administrator, also screaming, and swearing to no one in particular. 'Get in here!' was the message the soldier got. So he reported to Fort Snelling immediately that day, and began working.

This soldier is of Southwest Asian descent. His English is flawless, speaking more correctly than most native-born Americans. He is a linguist, translator and when necessary, as an interrogator. Fluent in many languages of the region, he is an extremely valuable military asset. Due to security reasons, his name is not given.

Currently based in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, he is working face to face with the Taliban and Al Qaida detainees who possibly knew of, supported, and/or participated in acts of terrorism

"I'm excited to be here [Cuba] doing my job, as this is what the Army has trained me to do," he said. He has been in the Army Reserve for nearly five years, based at Fort Snelling.

As a first generation immigrant, the soldier explained the reason for joining the Army Reserve. "I want my kids and grandkids to say the 'my father or grandfather' served our new country," he said. "I want to set the example for my future family." He believes bumper stickers and flags on the family minivan are patriotic and all, but "going to war is the ultimate thing you can do for your country," he said.

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Part of his individual mission is "facilitating their medical care as an interpreter," he explained. "I provide a means of communication between two individuals who can't otherwise communicate. I am a catalyst between the guards, medical people and detainees."

"I was planning on going to another destination instead of Guantanamo, but so far the military wants me here," he said.

The soldier said working with a Joint Task Force is very different than working with all Army personnel. "I have never done this before, so it takes some getting used to the different rank structures," he said. (A Joint Task Force is made up of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps service members). "We all have a good relationship for the most part," he added.

The other side of the mission includes interviewing the detainees, and gathering important information that may help in the War on Terrorism.



The Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS), the U.S. Army's successful recruiting program that provides youths the opportunity to serve their country while preparing for their future career success, has expanded to the Army Reserve.

Soldiers learn technical skills required by industry, along with work ethics, teamwork, communication and leadership during an enlistment in the U.S. Army. Once they complete their service obligation, they receive hiring preference at the company they select during their enlistment process. Check out Army PaYS and the new Army Reserve PaYS at <http://www.armypays.com/>.



Congressman Duncan Hunter Elected to Chair the House Committee on Armed Services

The Republican Conference yesterday elected Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) to serve as chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services during the 108th Congress. Said Hunter, "I am honored by this appointment, and look forward to serving the nation as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee."

Hunter, a Vietnam Veteran who was first elected to Congress in 1980, continued, "Congress' primary responsibility is the protection of the American people. Our fight against terrorism serves as a reminder that we continue to have enemies and it is imperative that we work with the President to ensure that our men and women in the military have every resource they need to defend our freedom." Continued Hunter, "I am committed to a strong United States military, and during my tenure as chairman, the committee will focus on four principal areas."

Hunter explained, "First, we will provide the President the resources he needs to win the nation's wars. Second, we will renew our commitment to modernization of the military, particularly through initiatives to quickly move new and effective technologies into the field. Third, we will make the Department of Defense a more efficient operation by continuing to shift resources from redundant and unnecessary bureaucracy to war-fighting capabilities. Finally, we will continue to strongly support our nation's military personnel and their families by ensuring that they are properly compensated and well-equipped with safe and effective weapons and equipment."

Hunter was first appointed to the House Armed Services Committee in 1981. During the 107th Congress, he served as vice-chair of the full committee and chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Research and Development. During the 104th, 105th, and 106th Congresses, Hunter served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement.

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Identity Theft (con't)

through the Internet, using the FTC online <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.htm> complaint form to report the problem or their ID Theft site at: <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>. The FTC is the federal clearing-house for consumer complaints about identity theft.

The information you provide can help the FTC and other law enforcement agencies track, investigate, and prosecute identity thieves.

Alert your bank to flag your accounts and to contact you to confirm unusual activity. Request a change of PIN and new password on existing credit cards/ATM or debit cards if you believe your existing accounts have been wrongfully accessed. Keep a log of all contacts and make copies of all documents. Contact the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline, 1-800-269-0271.

Contact the state office of the Department of Motor Vehicles to see if another license was issued in your name. If so, request a new license number and fill out the DMV's complaint form to begin the fraud investigation process.

If you are a victim there are several new laws which help protect you under the Federal Credit Laws. Some of these rights can help undo some of the identity theft damage. These rights include.

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you have the right to receive your credit report. You are entitled to receive the report free of charge if your report is inaccurate because of fraud. You have the right to dispute errors in your credit report. Once you notify them in writing, the credit bureau and the company that furnished the inaccurate information to the credit bureau must investigate the disputed information. The credit bureau is required to remove incorrect information from your report.

Under the Truth-In-Lending Act and the Fair Credit Billing Act, if you report to the credit card issuer that your credit card is lost or stolen, you cannot be held responsible for more than \$50 of unauthorized charges. You have the right to dispute errors on your credit card bill. If you send a written notice to the credit card issuer within 60 days, it must investigate and either correct the error or explain why the bill is believed to be correct within two billing cycles or 90 days, whichever is less.

See Identity Theft, p. 12

Father and son deploy to Kuwait

By: Sgt. Sam Hoffman, Staff Writer

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Janice Harmon sits with her son, Spc. Dereck Harmon, 1st Bn., 3rd ADA (left) and husband, Staff. Sgt. David Harmon, HHC, 2/7th Inf. (right).

"I'm not a child!"

"You're my child!" Mel Gibson as Col. Benjamin Martin shouted these words to his son (Heath Ledger) in the blockbuster movie, "The Patriot." ". "

For Staff Sgt. David Harmon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry and his son Spc. Dereck Harmon, 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, this is no scene from a movie. Fort Stewart's "patriots" will be deploying with 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), sometime this week, to Kuwait.

Janice Harmon, the wife and mother of these two soldiers, beams with pride. "I don't fear anything," she declares, resting her faith in God and confidence in her soldiers' ability. She remains composed in the face of something that every mother and wife in the U.S. military fears because, "I was in the Army for fifteen years ... we expect this to happen," she said.

Janice herself was a drill sergeant and a personnel specialist who was always expected to take care of her soldiers and she said she loved her job.

Janice wastes no time showing visitors of her house the vast awards her family has earned in the military. Her niece is in the Air Force; she has a sister who is retired military and a brother who is a sergeant major. Any guest invited over will see the photographs of her family and a stunning portrait of Janice, wearing Class A's, hanging, front and center over the couch. She smiles every time she looks at her husband and son.

Dereck, like so many young soldiers, joined the Army for the Montgomery G.I. Bill and the Army College fund. Now, as a chemical specialist attached to 1st Brigade, he expects his training to be put to good use in Kuwait.

He is confident.

"We have been training for this for two and a half months," Dereck said assuredly, "I couldn't ask for a better job." This will be 21-year-old Dereck's first deployment. With war looming on the horizon he said, "a lot of the young guys are uneasy. There's a fear of the unknown."

The elder Harmon said, "Just believe in your combat skills and your leaders." He wants all the young soldiers to know that. Having been raised in the military, Dereck knows this without being told.

After being in the Army for more than twenty years, David Harmon plans on making this tour his last "hoorah." The 43-year-old Youngstown, Ohio native is the model of excellence that the 3rd Inf. Div. and Fort Stewart have come to expect. Harmon is the NCOIC of the Divarty Dining Facility. He loves the Army and the benefits for his family. David has served all over the world, including Hawaii, Korea and Germany. He was a BNCOC instructor from 1996 to 2000 and served a combat tour in Somalia. He knows what it means to be a soldier. "It's good for him (Dereck) to see what the Army's all about," he smiles, "there's a lot more to this than just Fort Stewart."

David is not worried about who will take care of his wife because, "That's what my daughters are for," he exclaims.

Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Harmon have raised their daughters, Deletra, 11, and Jillisa, 13, as well as they've raised their son. They can be a handful, she says with emphasis, and they will miss their father's discipline. The former drill sergeant has a "let daddy take care of that" policy. Janice knows she is in good hands. The girls can't wait for their brother and father to return.

Harmon plans to retire and find a management position in the civilian food service industry.

Only five classes away from his bachelor's degree at the University of Phoenix, David departs on this tour with his only regret. "But (college) will be there when I get back," he said. Dereck will resume his education at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Tampa, Fla., when his enlistment is up.

Captain proud of Meriwether Lewis' heritage

by Nicole Dowell

An Army officer, who can trace his lineage back to Capt. Meriwether Lewis, participated in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial national kickoff at Monticello, Va., Jan. 14-19.



TCapt. Meriwether Anderson Sale Jr. is shown period medical instruments, similar to those used by the expedition.

Capt. Meriwether Anderson Sale Jr., a military intelligence officer stationed in Darmstadt, Germany, with the 2nd MI Battalion, 66th MI Group, is a sixth-generation descendant of Jane Lewis, the Army explorer's sister. Sale said he plans to celebrate the bicentennial as a descendant and as a captain in the Army. "I am very proud of my history, my lineage and where I come from," Sale said.

The Lewis and Clark expedition is a "significant piece of our U.S. expansion into the West and our evolution as the United States," Sale said.



Retired Col. Frank Steer, the oldest living graduate of West Point and a veteran of both World Wars, watches as his cake is cut on his 102nd birthday, Jan 12, 2003. One of his "secrets" for long life: "Wake up every day." Photo by Sgt. Bradley Rhen, USA.

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Lewis and Clark (con't)

"It is the first successful expedition of the western continent," Wilk said.

Beginning in 1792, three separate expeditions searched for a direct water route from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean.

"They all failed," Wilk said. "They weren't Army."

On Jan. 18, 1803, months before the Louisiana Purchase, President Thomas Jefferson sent a confidential letter to Congress, requesting money for an expedition to the Pacific Ocean. Jefferson selected his personal secretary, Capt. Meriwether Lewis, to lead the expedition. Lewis had authority to recruit noncommissioned officers and men from any of the western Army posts.

With Jefferson's consent, Lewis wrote to his friend and former comrade, William Clark, offering him the assignment as co-commander.

Clark was retired at the time, but he quickly jumped at the opportunity and re-commissioned as a captain.

The team came in contact with 55 new Indian tribes, recording their languages, trail routes and interpersonal relationships, all the while trying to make peace with the nations along the route. The event is called a commemoration because there is nothing to celebrate from the tribal perspective, Nauss said.

Researchers Test "Killer" Enzyme as Anthrax Treatment

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

An anthrax-killing enzyme now being tested by the Defense Department may one day be used as a medical treatment against the deadly bacteria, a DoD researcher said.

The enzyme, lysin, "is like a 'smart bomb' that kills anthrax, but doesn't kill anything else," noted Dr. John Carney, a pharmacologist with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency in Arlington, Va. "This could be an unique treatment (against anthrax) that wouldn't cause side effects." Read more: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2003/n01292003_200301293.html

Army testing new method to detect breast cancer

by Michael E. Dukes

A five-year trial is now underway at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to prove the value of "electrical impedance scanning" in detecting early stages of breast cancer in women under the age of 45.

Two hundred patients are enrolled so far and the goal is 4,800, said Maj. Alexander Stojadinovic, a surgical oncologist at the Walter Reed Comprehensive Breast Center. He said planning has begun for a Department of Defense study involving 12 sites with an expected enrollment of 20,000.

The study is not intended to compete with mammograms, said Stojadinovic. He said the clinical research should prove electrical impedance scanning to be a valuable ally to conventional screening methods, particularly in young women.

"The current process of using clinical breast examination alone to screen younger women is widely recognized as deficient," Stojadinovic said. Although the risk of breast cancer in women under 50 is low, the incidence is increasing, and breast cancer tends to be more aggressive in younger women, Stojadinovic said.

It is timely and warranted to pursue this screening trial now at Walter Reed, the Army's only comprehensive breast center, he said.

EIS is able to detect early stage tumors, particularly in young women; and 20 percent of the active-duty force is female; 92 percent of which are women under the age of 40. "EIS has the potential to identify women at high risk of breast cancer, even if it does not localize a specific lesion," Stojadinovic said.

Tumor tissue differs from normal breast tissue in electrical properties, and electrical impedance scanning detects in five minutes whether further screening is needed. Women eligible for the trial include non-pregnant military health-care beneficiaries ages 18 to 45 who have not breast fed or had breast surgery within the preceding three months and who do not have implanted electrically-powered devices. Patients undergo outpatient assessment with electrical impedance scanning.

More information on the trial is available from the Walter Reed Comprehensive Breast Center at 202-782-3416.

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AER offering scholarships

By Teresa Saunders/Fort Knox AER Officer

College money may not be a top priority on the minds of most high school seniors right now because they are too involved in their present school activities.

But now is the time to start filling out scholarship applications for military family members, and the Army Emergency Relief Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund is one you don't want to miss.

Last year, 95 percent of the applicants were awarded money, anywhere from \$700 to \$1,800 per academic year.

We want to get the word out about this scholarship now because getting all the paperwork completed takes time.

The name of the scholarship, Army Emergency Relief, may be cause for some to overlook it as a source of tuition assistance, thinking there has to be some sort of emergency hardship to receive money. That is not the case. The awards are based primarily on financial need according to income, assets, family size, special financial obligations, and circumstances. Secondary issues are academics and leadership.

"Last year 3,295 applications were received, but only 2,003 were complete. Out of these, 1,898 students were awarded a total of \$2,435,800.

Meeting the eligibility requirements, submitting all the required paperwork, and getting the application mailed on time are essential for consideration. The deadline for application is March 1.

Scholarships are open to dependent children of Army soldiers on active duty, retired, or deceased while on active duty or after retirement and dependent children of certain active Army National Guard or Army Reserve soldiers. Applicants must be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting system; unmarried for the entire academic year, and under the age of 22 this June 1, based on 2003-2004 academic year.

Guidelines also stipulate that the applicants be enrolled, accepted or pending acceptance as full-time students for the entire academic year in post-secondary educational institutions accredited by the

See Scholarships, p 12

Scholarships (con't.)

Department of Education, and maintain at least a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale for funds to be awarded or disbursed

One of the biggest reported problems with the application is the student aid report. Applicants must file a student aid report as a part of the application. Students obtain the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form from the school they will be attending, fill it out, and send it to the processing agency, not AER.

Scholarship awards are not affected by whether students receive financial aid from other sources. Letters are mailed in early summer to all on-time applicants stating scholarship award status. Funds are disbursed to the school in August.

Online applications will be accepted at www.aerhq.org. Supporting documentation must be mailed by the deadlines. The scholarship funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees, books, supplies, and school room and board either on or off campus.

Identity Theft (con't)

Under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, you have the right to dispute errors on your electronic fund transfer account statements. If you send a written notice to the issuing financial institution within 60 days, it must investigate and either correct the error or explain why the account statement is believed to be correct within thirteen business days. In some cases, if the institution needs more time, it may take up to 45 days to complete the investigation.

Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, if a debt collector contacts you about a debt that you believe you do not owe, you have the right to file a dispute with the debt collector. If you do so in writing within thirty days of the collector's initial contact with you, the collector is required to stop all collection efforts until the debt is verified and the verification is sent to you.



First In Deed is an electronic publication published bi-monthly by the First Army Public Affairs Office. FID encourages submission of articles and photos with detailed cut-lines. Contact Ms Gayle Johnson at DSN 797-7327 for more information. Deadline for submission for the April/May edition is March 24, 2003.

Send us your stories or story ideas.

First In Deed

Published by First U.S. Army Public Affairs Office
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